



CYRUS DALLIN ART MUSEUM Minutes



Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Members present: Tracy Skahan, Chris Costello, Ellen Aamodt, Geraldine Tremblay (out at 7:40), Susan Gilbert, Daniel Johnson (out at 8:15), Mark DeCew (at 7:50), Sarah Burks
Others present: Chuck Luca, Peter Middleton, Amy Moyer (at 7:07pm)

Start @ 7:06pm

1. Welcome

S. Burks welcomed the group. Noted that we are back to the Zoom meeting based on the uptick of COVID cases and any possible future weather-related issues.

2. Review of Action Items from last meeting

C. Luca shared the AI's. S. Gilbert said she would have the information to us by Christmas for AI regarding the list of vendors for the website. C. Luca said that the back door is worse. G. Tremblay has no update on AMCI yet. S. Burks sent H. Leavell list regarding replenishment of items for store.

3. Approvals & Consents

E. Aamodt made a motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2021, as corrected. C. Costello seconded. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

No reimbursements.

4. Board of Directors' Update on Recent Grants

G. Tremblay said that she is very excited to share that with working with Sean and others, we have received a grant through Mass. Travel and Tourism. The state refers to this as an "earmark grant" and the project is from January to May 2022. Funds have to be spent and state needs to be informed of same. Grant is in two parts. First, archival digitization and an online database. The second part is going to be a redesign of the front entry and the Native American Gallery. H. Leavall has applied for a grant for Freedom Way. Hope in January to publish a press release. E. Aamodt said that improvements will put us on a higher level with other, similar, museums and is an amazing accomplishment. E. Aamodt asked about other improvements that need to be made (in front of fireplace, etc.). G. Tremblay said that, since this is a town building, they should be working on these efforts but doesn't have a specific answer. S. Burks said we need to keep that a priority and work with the planning office. C. Luca said that he's indicated same to Greg Walters. That they did do some fixes but they haven't hit any of the original requests that were made. G. Tremblay said with these projects

Cyrus Dallin Art Museum Minutes

starting in January, then the rehousing from July to November, H. Leavell and N. Blanton would never be able to retackle the inside of the house. D. Johnson commented on the earmark grant and how the project came to fruition. That this will be a foundation and platform to do further work in the museum. D. Johnson said that it would be great if S. Gilbert could do the press release in January and others could be involved. We need to try to create more awareness, membership, donor base, etc. in Arlington. H. Leavell, D. Johnson, and G. Trembly (and any others interested) will work on press release with S. Gilbert. S. Burks wonders if it being an earmark on the budget, would it make folks curious to look into the museum. G. Trembly said that it would be great if we could have an event or events around this.

5. Digital Programs & Outreach

S. Burks shared M. Harper's slides. We are very close to 500 followers on Instagram. Continue to grow on other platforms. D. Johnson is going to find out if Andrew's walking tour was taped so we can get a copy. N. Blanton has tour with seniors from Newton scheduled on January 12th – P. Middleton to lead. We've had 20 visitors since November 27th. P. Middleton gave a tour where folks owned two Dallin busts. They enjoyed their tour and made a donation. N. Blanton has talked to two people that might be interested in being docents. Museum is going to be closed two Saturdays, December 25th and January 1st. S. Burks updated closure dates on Google and N. Blanton has updated on voicemail and website. They are working with Elizabeth on getting her up to speed on docent staffing.

6. Curatorial & Collections

Holding until next meeting. Did discuss somewhat in no. 4.

7. Operations/Facilities

C. Luca wrote back to Greg Walters and cc'd Jenny Raitt during our meeting. Greg is no longer with Arlington and there is a new contact (Jim Feeney). C. Luca said that all is going well in the Cutter gallery. If you go to the website you can see some of her work. Gallery is open on select dates through December and January. C. Luca added the brickwork to the list of items needing addressing. S. Burks reported that H. Leavell said that temp sign is moving forward and the sign committee for the future, permanent sign is activity talking about that. S. Burks and C. Luca said that the park looks great.

8. Volunteers' Report

We have a vacancy on the trustee's board since Mike doesn't have the bandwidth to attend the meetings. He will continue to volunteer in whatever capacity he can going forward (e.g., kids sculpture workshop, etc.). A. Moyer said that she would be interested in the position. A. Moyer said that she and S. Burks had a nice meeting over coffee and she went through a brief introduction/re-introduction of herself.

E. Aamodt made a motion to send a nomination to the Select Board for A. Moyer to be appointed to the Board. M. DeCew seconded. Unanimously approved by roll call vote. A. Moyer to send letter of intent to S. Burks.

Cyrus Dallin Art Museum Minutes

9. Arlington Engagement

S. Gilbert shared that her article in the Advocate was on page 3 and got over 705 hits online. Also, in the most recent Arts Arlington newsletter. For January publicity for grant and February for indigenous community. We need to coordinate with the historical society regarding the publicity for the February event. We will put S. Gilbert in touch with Patsy for the event. E. Aamodt asked about Patriot's Day and if we could participate with Longfellow's Poem in the new garden. She asked who to contact but she will ask H. Leavell in the meantime. S. Burks can ask the town about Patriot's Day. E. Aamodt said that even if the town doesn't do the parade that we should still consider an event on Patriot's Day. S. Burks asked if S. Gilbert could try to keep a list of hits to her articles going forward.

E. Aamodt reported that she went to the Chamber's first meeting of the business community at CSB East. There were about 35/40 people there and the guest speaker was the chief of police. They discussed the need for more security cameras in and around town. E. Aamodt is going to try to work on having a First Lights event next year. S. Burks said to maybe mention to realtors that gift memberships to the museum might be something to give new residents to the town.

10. 2022 Trustees Planning Discussion

S. Burks shared her screen to show the Dallin website. Went over our mission statement. E. Aamodt said that in earlier minutes we discussed a shared calendar and maybe that is a starting point. Then we can plug in know events and then we can see where there is room for something else. Things that are big-time commitments should be in there (e.g., H. Leavell with the annual appeal, grant applications, etc.) so not to schedule too many events, etc. during that time. M. Harper and N. Blanton are working on a word document calendar for now. C. Luca said that we need to figure out how/if COVID will be affecting us in 2022. We haven't had AOTG for two years now because of COVID and it would be nice to know when we can/should have events like that going forward. M. DeCew said that there are two things we should be looking at – the restored self-portrait and the bronze Paul Revere. We should think about how we can get them on display. M. DeCew and P. Middleton talked about possible locations or leveraging image in our promotional items. For the Paul Revere piece, putting it outside might not be practical but better place than on the floor or maybe put it on loan, etc. T. Skahan agreed with E. Aamodt's on having a shared calendar. Since I am a visual person, I find a calendar helpful and we could also add AI's, etc. to a shared calendar. A. Moyer mentioned the beer garden and suggested that maybe in front of Town Hall would be a good place for the Paul Revere. C. Luca said that the open foyer area in Town Hall would be a location for the Paul Revere or brought there for a period of time. C. Costello mentioned his coin talk and discussed that he has general ideas for plaques, signs, etc. for inside the museum. S. Gilbert mentioned having a continued, updated list of events would be helpful for planning ahead. S. Burks ran across an article that Perkins School of the Blind purchased a copy of the Appeal to the Great Spirit for tactile art teaching to their students. First piece that they purchased for that type of arts education.

Cyrus Dallin Art Museum Minutes

11. All Other Business

M. DeCew went to see the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument in downtown Syracuse, NY. and shared photos he took.

12. Identify new Action Items

Discussed under no. 2.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 11th at 7pm.